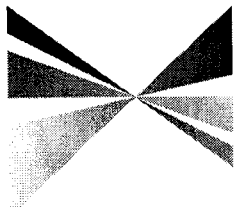


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**

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Orange County Transportation Authority: Lou
Correa, County of Orange

Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

MEETING OF THE

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME

Thursday, January 5, 2006

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

SCAG Offices

**818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor
Conference Room Riverside A
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.236.1800**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments
or have any questions on any of the agenda items,
please contact Deby Salcido at 213.236.1993 or
salcido@scag.ca.gov

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Committee are also available at:

www.scag.ca.gov/committees/eec.htm

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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

PAGE #

TIME

“Any item listed on the agenda (action or information) may be acted upon at the discretion of the Committee”.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Hon. Dennis
Washburn, Chair

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or items not on the agenda, but within the purview of the Committee, must fill out and present a speaker's card to the Assistant prior to speaking. A speaker's card must be turned in before the meeting is called to order. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The chair may limit the total time for all comments to twenty (20) minutes.

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of December 1, 2005
Attachment

01

4.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 SB 1024 (Perata) Public Works
and Improvements Attachment

Government Affairs 05
Staff



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

			PAGE #	TIME
5.0	<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>			
5.1	<u>Demand Response Community Partnership Attachment</u>	Jennifer Brost-Sarnecki SCAG Staff	07	10 Minutes
	Staff will present information on a potential partnership with Southern California Edison.			
	Recommended Action: Approve continued discussions with Southern California Edison to develop a comprehensive plan for a Demand Response Community Partnership			
5.2	<u>Renew LA Attachment</u>	Jacob Lieb SCAG Staff	09	10 Minutes
	SCAG staff will describe the City of Los Angeles' innovative Renew LA solid waste management program.			
	Recommended Action: Support the Renew LA Program.			
6.0	<u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>			
6.1	<u>State Goods Movement Action Plan</u>	Nancy Pfeffer SCAG Staff		15 Minutes
	A briefing on the current State Goods Movement Action Plan process will be presented.			
6.2	<u>RCP Open Space and Habitat Chapter Attachment</u>	Jessica Kirchner SCAG Staff	12	10 Minutes
	Staff will provide a progress report on the Open Space and Habitat Chapter.			



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

PAGE #

TIME

Information Items – cont'd

6.3 Subregional Audits

Hon. Sidney Tyler, Jr.
Chair, Audit Comm.

10 Minutes

Information and status will be presented
on the Subregional Audits.

7.0 WATER POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Dennis
Washburn

8.0 SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Toni Young,
Chair

9.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Hon. Dennis
Washburn, Chair

10.0 STAFF REPORT

Sylvia Patsaouras,
SCAG Staff

11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any Committee members or staff desiring to place items on a future agenda
may make such request. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes.

12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee will be held on February 2, 2006, at the
SCAG Office. A Joint Workshop will be held on the same day to discuss the budget.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

iii

Energy and Environment Committee
December 1, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Energy and Environment Committee held its meeting at the Southern California Association of Governments, downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by Dennis Washburn, Vice-Chair. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Bertone, Denis
Brennan, Brian
Campbell, Todd
Carrillo, Victor
Carroll, Stanley
Clark, Margaret
Cook, Debbie
Forester, Larry
Hanks, Keith
King, Dorothy
Miller, Mike
Van Arsdale, Lori
Washburn, Dennis (Chair)
Young, Toni
Zerunyan, Frank

SGVCOG
VCOG
City of Burbank
City of Imperial
City of La Habra Heights
City of Rosemead
City of Huntington Beach
City of Signal Hill
City of Azusa
Gateway Cities COG
City of West Covina
City of Hemet
City of Calabasas
City of Port Hueneme
SBCCOB

Members Not Present

Eckenrode, Norman
Harrison, Jon
Marchand, Paul
Nelson, Larry
Olivas, David J.
Portantino, Anthony
Streator, Joyce

City of Placentia
City of Redlands
City of Cathedral City
City of Artesia
SGVCOG
City of La Canada/Flintridge
City of Pasadena

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Hon. Dennis Washburn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
The pledge of allegiance will be done at the Regional Council meeting.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

000001

Energy and Environment Committee
December 1, 2005

Action Minutes

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee agreed to move Item 5.4 to the head of the agenda.

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

It was MOVED (Larry Forester), SECONDED (Denis Bertone) and UNANIMOUSLY agreed to approve the Consent Calendar.

4.1 Approval Items

4.1.1 Action Minutes of October 10, 2005

4.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Pomona Inland Valley Partnership Program

Jennifer Brost, SCAG Staff, presented a report on this item.

Toni Young asked that to make it fair, on the Partnership Program Agenda, there be an item approving an equitable rate no matter what type of energy is utilized.

It was MOVED (Denis Bertone), SECONDED (Debbie Cook) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to continue discussions between SCAG, SCE, and Intergy Corporation.

5.2 S1607, Solid Waste on Railroad Properties

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, presented a report on this item.

It was MOVED (Toni Young), SECONDED (Larry Forester), and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to support federal legislation to clarify jurisdiction of solid waste facilities on railroad properties.

5.3 "Underground Rulemaking" Program

Jacob Lieb, SCAG Staff, presented a report on this item.

Energy and Environment Committee
December 1, 2005

Action Minutes

It was MOVED (Toni Young), SECONDED (Keith Hanks) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to support legislation to clarify the Administrative procedures Act regarding "Underground Rulemaking."

5.4 Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource Efficient Land Use

Dan Griset, SCAG Staff, introduced Susan Longville of the Water Resources Institute, who presented a report in support of the Ahwahnee Water Principles. A link to the Powerpoint presentation will be placed on the SCAG website.

It was MOVED (Brian Brennen), SECONDED (Larry Forrester) and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to approve Resolution 06-469-2 in support of the Ahwahnee Water Principles.

5.5 Conformity Determination and EIR Addendum for the Draft RTP/RTIP Amendment

Jessika Kirchner, SCAG Staff presented a report on this item.

It was MOVED (Larry Forester), SECONDED (Debbie Cook) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to release for public review and comment the conformity determination and PEIR Addendum for the Draft 2004 RTP/RTIP Amendment.

5.6 Proposed Energy Summit

Jennifer Brost presented a report on this item.

It was MOVED (Debbie Cook), SECONDED (Mike Miller) and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to continue staff's involvement in organizing an Energy Summit in 2006.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

7.0 WATER POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT

Dennis Washburn, Chair, informed the group that there was a very informative field trip on November 10, 2005, to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency at 6075 Kimbell Avenue in Chino. The next meeting of the Water Policy Task Force is January 12, 2005 at SCAG.

Energy and Environment Committee
December 1, 2005

Action Minutes

8.0 SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE REPORT

Toni Young, Chair, reported that the task force is continuing to work on the Solid Waste Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

9.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

None

10.0 STAFF REPORT

None

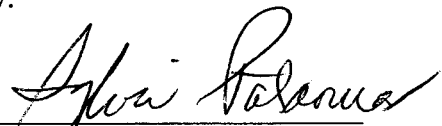
11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dennis Washburn, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m. The next meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee will be held at the SCAG office on January 5.

Action Minutes Approved
by:



Sylvia Patsaouras, Staff
Energy and Environment

MEMO

DATE: January 5, 2006

TO: Community, Economic and Human Development Committee, Transportation and Communications Committee, Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Government Affairs Staff

SUBJECT: S.B. 1024 (Perata) The Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility, Disaster Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2005

SUMMARY:

The Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility, Disaster Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2005 (S.B. 1024) was introduced by Senator Don Perata on February 22, 2005. The purpose of this measure is to provide bond revenue for infrastructure improvements throughout the state of California. During the legislative recess, Senators and their staff have been holding public hearings and working to form consensus groups throughout the state. We expect a lot of activity on this bill when the Legislature reconvenes on January 4, 2006. The following information briefly explains the current provisions of the bill. Please note that these provisions may change as the bill is reviewed and debated in the 2006 Legislative session.

BACKGROUND:

The Safe Facilities, Improved Mobility, Disaster Preparedness and Clean Air Bond Act of 2005 (SB 1024), would place before voters a general obligation bond to invest \$10.275 billion in California's infrastructure. The funds would be allocated as follows:

\$1.2 billion for flood protection in California. California levees provide protection for 500,000 people, 2 million acres of prime farmland, and 200,000 residential and commercial structures, with a combined value of \$47 billion. Years of deferred maintenance have led experts to question the structural integrity of California's levees. SB 1024 provides \$1 billion for the inspection and strengthening of California's 1,600 miles of project levees. An additional \$200 million is provided to local flood control agencies to provide flood protection on local streams, rivers and creeks.

\$2.3 billion to repay transportation loans to jumpstart transportation projects. The bond repayment would keep faith with California voters' desire to devote transportation taxes to transportation purposes, and would relieve the General Fund of an obligation otherwise due in FY 2008-09. The bond revenue would be used to jumpstart 141 high-priority projects that have been stalled in recent years for lack of funding. These are important congestion-reducing projects located in every urban region of the state. It would also provide money for transit, local streets, and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

\$1.5 billion for regions to fund high priority projects. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds go to every county in the state (see chart B). A new STIP is adopted every two years and contains projects selected by the regions as their highest priority transportation projects. The last two STIP cycles have added no new projects to be constructed in California due to lack of available funds. The new 2006 STIP, again, is expected to be wholly deficient. The bond funds would allow regions and Caltrans, for the first time in four years, to add new, high-priority projects to the STIP.

\$2.5 billion to relieve traffic and improve security and air quality at California ports. In 2003, \$407 billion worth of U.S. trade went through California's sea, air and land ports. Forty percent of the nation's

MEMO

imported goods travel through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach alone. Port operations in California employ 1 in 7 Californians, but present difficult issues such as truck congestion, diminished air quality, and security concerns. SB 1024 provides \$2.5 billion to address these issues. Two billion would go to making highway, rail, or port infrastructure improvements in the state's most heavily congested trade areas. Four hundred million would go to the Carl Moyer Air Quality Fund to replace high polluting diesel engines on vehicles used in the operation of ports with cleaner technologies. One hundred million would go as grants to ports for security improvements.

\$1 billion for an incremental approach to High Speed Rail. The bond would provide \$200 million to five separate corridors in California to prepare for the possibility of developing a high speed rail system that would increase the efficient movement of goods through the state. The funds could be used for environmental work, right-of-way acquisition, and grade separations. In addition to high speed rail, these investments will improve passenger and freight rail flow in California. SB 1024 takes an incremental approach to high speed rail and proposes to repeal and replace the pending high speed rail bond.

\$1.25 billion in funds to provide incentives for more infill and transit-oriented development in California. Soaring housing costs have forced working families to move far away from their jobs to afford a home. This leads to increased commute times, more air pollution, increased traffic, and less time for families to be together. While families are able to find more affordable housing at the outskirts, research shows their savings on housing are offset by their increased transportation costs. As a result, these families realize little overall savings. SB 1024 provides \$275 million to promote projects that locate housing, retail and office centers within ¼ mile of transit stations. The bill would provide funds for infrastructure costs related to these types of projects and offer loans to developers siting affordable housing near transit stations. The remaining \$975 million for infill and housing incentives would be used as follows:

- \$425 million for infill incentive grants for capital outlay for infrastructure that includes water and sewer hook-ups, related transportation improvements, and the development or rehabilitation of urban parks.
- \$200 million for grants from the Secretary of Resources for acquisition of wildlife habitat, open space and easements on agricultural land, as mitigation for the policies adopted in a region's growth plan.
- \$200 million to rehabilitate multi-family housing in a designated infill area.
- \$100 million for grants for local agencies to improve upfront planning necessary for urban infill development.
- \$50 million to clean up vacant sites in urban areas so they can be made useful to accommodate future growth.

\$425 million for Affordable Housing Incentive Program. This program will improve neighborhood streets and roads for local governments that meet their share of the regional housing need.

\$100 million for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program. The program funds "green" transportation projects like landscaping near freeways, bike trails, greenbelts, etc.

REPORT


DATE: January 5, 2006

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jennifer Brost Sarnecki, AICP, Associate Regional Planner,
213-236-1829, brost@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Demand Response Community Partnership

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve continued discussions with Southern California Edison to develop a comprehensive plan for a Demand Response Program.

SUMMARY:

Staff will present information on a potential partnership with Southern California Edison.

BACKGROUND:

In May, 2005 Southern California Edison (SCE) approached SCAG staff with the concept of a partnership to publicize demand response programs in the region. At the July 7, 2005 EEC meeting, Mr. Mark Martinez of SCE presented information on SCE's Demand Response Initiative. Demand response is a short-term solution for immediate energy needs, which includes efforts to reduce energy consumption during critical periods to improve electric reliability during extraordinary events. SCAG also sponsored the SCE Demand Response Emerging Technologies Forum and Showcase on July 22, 2005.

SCE is now requesting a more formalized relationship with SCAG to implement a Demand Response Community Partnership (Partnership). SCAG would help provide new marketing channels to increase energy savings among customers. The Partnership would provide customer education to facilitate participation in demand response programs. Participants in the Demand Response Program would benefit from reduced occurrences of power shortages, improved operational readiness, and reduced costs.

The proposed Partnership would build on the current demand response community partnerships in the City of Ontario, Los Angeles County, and the Building Owner Management Association of Greater Los Angeles. In addition, the Partnership would complement and leverage the potential San Gabriel Valley Energy Efficiency Program, for which staff coordination was approved at the December 1, 2005 EEC meeting.

In order to formalize the Partnership, SCAG staff requests EEC approval to continue negotiations with SCE toward a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU would define the roles and responsibilities of each entity, the programmatic components, and the schedule.

REPORT

FISCAL IMPACT:

All Demand Response Community Partnership activities will be paid for by Southern California Edison. SCAG involvement in this partnership will be contingent upon funding availability.

REPORT

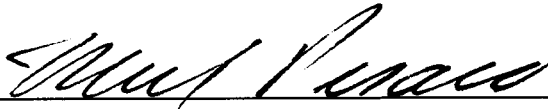
DATE: January 5, 2005

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jacob Lieb, Acting Lead Regional Planner, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov
Solid Waste Task Force

SUBJECT: Renew LA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Support the Renew LA Program.

SUMMARY

The Renew LA program is a proposed effort led by Councilman Greig Smith to develop Conversion Technologies for Solid Waste in the City of Los Angeles. The Regional Council has taken various positions in support of conversion technologies. The Solid Waste Task Force has recommended that the Regional Council send a letter to the City of Los Angeles in support of the Renew LA effort.

BACKGROUND:

Solid Waste management and disposal continues to be a serious issue facing the Southern California region. At present, there is not sufficient land fill capacity to meet needs associated with anticipated growth. At the same time, siting new landfill facilities is increasingly difficult due to neighborhood concerns.

Conversion technologies, which convert solid waste to usable materials, including waste to energy present an opportunity for innovative solutions to waste disposal. The City of Los Angeles, through the Renew LA program, proposes a long term action plan, including policy, technology development, and best practices to move from waste disposal to resource recovery.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. SCAG's activities in solid waste planning are included in the Overall Work Program as part of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (06-035.scgs1)

Attachment:

Renew LA Fact Sheet



TOGETHER WE CAN R.E.N.E.W. LA

By Councilman Greig Smith

I've written often of my staunch opposition to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which is located in my district and takes the total of LA's residential waste, some 3500 tons-per-day – as well as all landfills in an urbanized setting. I have spent more than twenty years fighting landfilling in one way or another. I was a founding member of "Dump the Dump," (now known as The North Valley Coalition) and served on Mayor Hahn's Landfills Oversight Committee where I chaired the Future Alternative

Technologies subcommittee. I became aware of conversion technologies and their potential to create useful products, including clean, renewable energy, from waste. Since then, I have traveled to Europe and locally to study and tour operational facilities and have spent time in Sacramento lobbying the Waste Board and State Legislature on the benefits of conversion technologies and resource recovery.

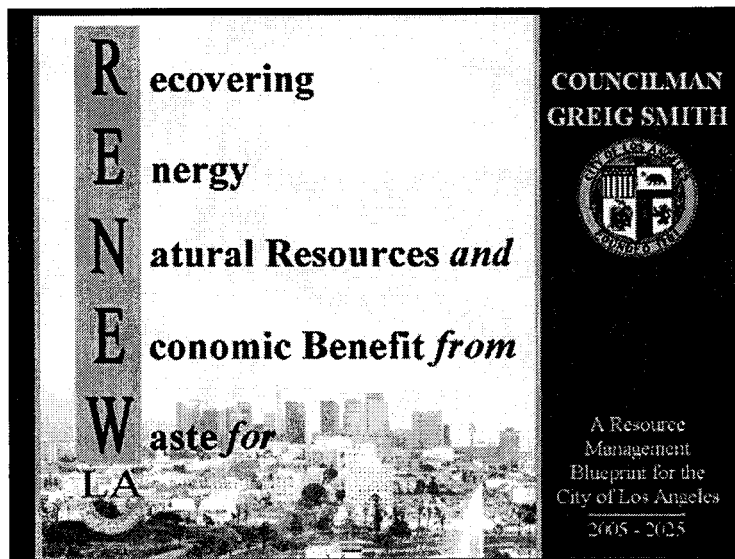
Nobody wants a landfill in their backyard. I've been saying forever, that landfills are a 2000-year old "technology" that causes

environmental harm while wasting valuable resources. At the same time, there has never been a comprehensive plan to rid the City of its dependence on them. We hear a lot of talk about rail haul to remote desert landfills, or long distance truck transfer, but all this does is export the problem to someone else's backyard while causing serious air pollution along the route.

Last month, I unveiled my R.E.N.E.W. LA plan to end landfilling in Los Angeles, while maximizing resource recovery, reuse and recycling. My plan is a

"resource management blueprint" for the City of Los Angeles, and proposes a paradigm shift in which trash is no longer viewed as waste to be managed, but as a source of valuable, reusable commodities.

R.E.N.E.W. LA stands for: Recovering Energy, Natural Resources and Economic Benefit from Waste for Los Angeles. This monumental plan creates the roadmap for Los Angeles to become the country's leading innovator in dealing with its trash. R.E.N.E.W. LA is a 400+ page document that contains a policy package



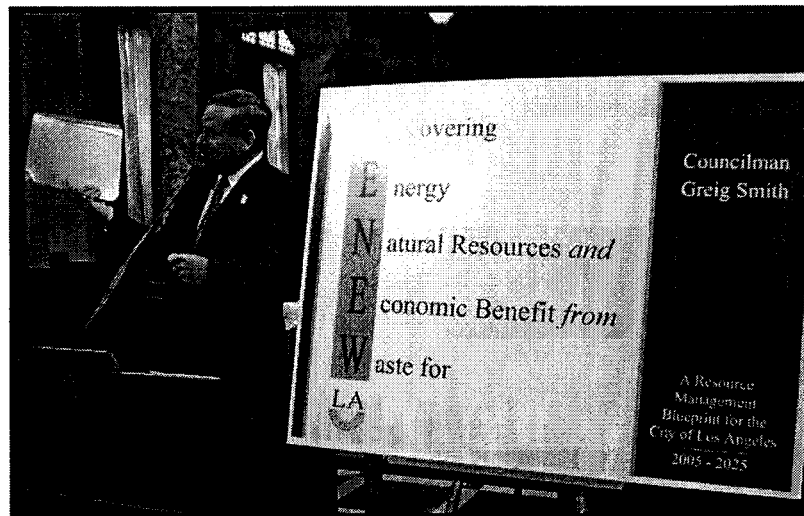
including fourteen legislative motions to accelerate its goals of maximum resource recovery, an end to landfilling and the creation of clean, renewable energy. The plan has been two years in the making.

R.E.N.E.W. LA is a twenty-year action plan, created with the input of environmental, business and community leaders. It raises the bar from compliance with current 50% AB 939-mandated landfill diversion levels, to a goal of "Zero Waste" that emphasizes sustainability and environmental protection while creating economic benefits, including job creation. The plan comes with its own oversight committee to enact, guide and adapt the plan, long after my term in office.

The plan expands recycling programs, particularly in the business and multi-family sectors. There are proposals to offer tax incentives to businesses that locate in Los Angeles and use City-collected trash as a feedstock for a manufacturing process.

Businesses could also benefit financially if they significantly reduce or eliminate their waste. R.E.N.E.W. LA also proposes a revised City procurement policy in which highest and best use, reduced toxicity and conservation of resources will be prioritized.

Conversion technologies figure prominently in R.E.N.E.W. LA because they convert waste into clean, renewable energy. The City has set a 20% goal for renewable energy by the year 2017 and R.E.N.E.W. LA proposes partnerships between the Bureau of Sanitation, the DWP and private industry to help meet these goals. Conversion technologies can also be used to create valuable chemicals, alternative fuels, soil amendments and other feedstocks for manufacturing, reducing the need for virgin resources. Use of alternative fuels reduces green house gasses and harmful emissions while decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and foreign oil sources.



If you would like to read more about R.E.N.E.W. LA, the Executive Summary and Synopsis are available on my website by clicking <http://www.lacity.org/CD12>. In the coming months, I will be traveling throughout the City to present my plan. If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact my office at 213-473-7012.

Together we truly can end our dependence on landfilling while preserving resources, decreasing pollution and increasing our energy sustainability.

MEMO

DATE: January 5, 2005

TO: Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)

FROM: Jessica Kirchner, Associate Regional Planner, (213)236-1983, kirchner@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Regional Comprehensive Plan Open Space and Habitat Chapter

SUMMARY

The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force, at its October 24 meeting, discussed the approach and scope for the planned Open Space and Habitat Chapter. The Task Force members and other meeting participants identified potential outcomes and regional goals that could be specified within the chapter, and form a focus for staff activities. This report includes comments from the Task Force.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is intended to serve as a useful tool to implement policies of the Regional Council. The approach for the overall development of the plan calls for a special emphasis on the Open Space and Habitat Chapter for the following reasons:

- The region's adopted 2% Strategy calls for increased urban development and growth in key strategic areas, while broadly supporting sustainability concepts and environmental protection. The region needs a well-articulated open space protection strategy to balance its urbanization strategy.
- There has been substantial planning work done within the region on open space and habitat issues, particularly at the county level, but little coordination among counties, at the regional scale, or between the region and the State.
- The State Resource Agencies has expressed an interest in pursuing with SCAG a coordinated open space and habitat planning process.
- Establishing a reliable, workable open space protection system is key to establishing alternative environmental review procedures under State law.

As such, the RCP Task Force held an extended discussion on potential goals and outcomes for the RCP Open Space and Habitat Chapter. The results of that discussion are recorded in the attached revised scope and approach for the chapter.

Given concurrence from the EEC, SCAG staff will proceed to develop a draft chapter. Specific activities to be pursued are described in detail in the attachment. Particularly of note are the following:

- The formation of a working group
- The retention of a consultant to develop, in consultation with the appropriate agencies, a comprehensive open space protection system

MEMO

- Collaboration with State agencies on an iterative planning process
- Review of existing County level open space and habitat plans in response to SAFETEA-LU requirements for expanded consultation.

Attachment: Chapter Scope and Approach

This draft Open Space and Habitat chapter approach, as presented, is preliminary and has not been subject to formal approval of the SCAG Regional Council or any Committee. The draft is based on the discussions of the RCP Task Force and is being made available at this time for information and for suggestions.

Preliminary Draft Scope and Approach for the Regional Comprehensive Plan: Open Space and Habitat Chapter

Develop a vision for open space preservation for Southern California

Action: Develop regional level analyses with a consistent look and uniform procedures and mitigation. This would provide a template that could be easily implemented at the local level.

Activities:

1. Consult with agencies, stakeholders and the task force, to create an open space vision for the region.
2. Incorporate SCAG's Growth Vision/2% Strategy to help create a regional open space vision.
3. Consider options for reclaiming previously developed lands to be used as open space/park land.

Outcomes

- a. The chapter will include quantifiable measures, such as a number of acres that should be preserved, and identify specific areas for preservation.
- b. The regional vision will serve as a catalyst to subsequent work.

Identify suggested amount and type of parkland within urban settings

Action: The Open Space and Habitat chapter will attempt to develop measures of parkland and access appropriate for Southern California and delineate action steps to increase access to parks and open space for all Southern California residents. The discussion will include both small urban parks (e.g., pocket parks) and large regional parks.

Activities:

4. Meet with stakeholders to ascertain park needs at the regional level and develop ways to consider both large regional parks and small urban "pocket parks."
5. Include a discussion of agricultural lands and their importance to the region including an examination of urban agricultural lands (i.e., community gardens, create a 2% food strategy (i.e., 2% of food is grown locally))
6. The chapter will include a discussion of urban agriculture and benefits such as alleviating effects of urban heat islands, incorporating information from other RCP chapters as appropriate including water, energy, air quality and solid and hazardous waste.

Outcomes:

- a. Through consultation with stakeholders, staff will develop "parks to people" ratios based on SCAG's Growth Vision/2% Strategy

Identify measures to mitigate habitat impacts of transportation projects

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Action: The Open Space and Habitat chapter will examine wildlife crossings at the regional level, building on the work done in Ventura County and state conservancies, and apply the knowledge gained at a regional scale. This analysis will include identification of important and restricted wildlife corridors to preserve habitat connectivity.

Activities:

7. Explore impacts to fisheries, marine life and waterways.
8. Incorporate regional wildlife corridors analysis into the open space chapter.
9. Include a discussion of the benefits of parks/open space/natural areas on air quality and water quality.

Outcomes:

- a. Develop habitat goals, including no net reduction due to development in species populations, and explore the potential to repopulate species.
- b. Identify key wildlife corridors for the region.

Identify financial mechanisms to accrue funding for open space protection

Action: A consultant is expected to be retained for tasks including (but not limited to) securing open space resources, forming a pool of funding for mitigation of impacts of new development, and providing discretionary incentive funding to cities and counties for adopting policies supportive of a regional growth strategy developing infrastructure. The financial element will also include a discussion of the overall costs of operations and maintenance of parks and open space areas.

Activities:

10. Explore cumulative impacts due to the loss of open space for the region such as degradation of air, water quality and public health benefits.
11. Attempt to ascertain the actual value of open space/natural areas by evaluating “hidden” costs associated with development of open space.
12. Explore alternative funding mechanisms for open space protection and preservation.
13. Explore ways to tap into readily available funds for mitigation.

Outcomes:

- a. With the help of a consultant, staff will attempt to find more effective tools and monetary incentives to achieve open space goals.
- b. As a result, there will be better understanding of the cumulative impacts and “real” cost of loss of open space and natural areas.

Analyze existing state plans for open space, habitat, and parks. Recommend for future planning efforts based on consistency with the region’s desired outcomes

Action: The California Resources Agency has agreed, in concept, to collaborate on the chapter. Evaluation at the regional level will enable communities to see what has been done elsewhere. In addition, this process will be

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proactive rather than reactive (relying on the endangered species acts) and will facilitate broad community participation. This will help develop an iterative process whereby regional priorities influence other plans and vice versa.

Activities:

14. Coordinate with the Resources Agency staff to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
15. Comply with the new requirements of SAFETEA-LU which require expanded consultation and evaluation of currently available plans.

Outcomes:

- a. Through the consultation process SCAG will help establish consistent coordinated open space planning throughout the region.

Develop open space and habitat planning tools and best practices to be implemented at the local level

Action: Recognizing the benefits of parks are experienced at the local level, the open space and habitat chapter will include a “toolkit” for local governments who want to increase park space within their jurisdictions.

Activities:

16. Distinguish between parks (typically in developed areas) and natural areas (typically in non-developed areas).
17. Provide technical assistance to local agencies for linking parklands.
18. Share best practices uncovered during the process to educate local agencies on available tools.
19. Build on work that has been done already, including by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

Outcomes:

- a. SCAG will develop specific guidance on achieving open space goals with optional implementation.